



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

less advanced than that we know they enjoyed at the Conquest.

Briefer is the report of Mr. Theobert Maler of his many years explorations of the ruined cities of the peninsula. It is published, with numerous photographic reproductions, in the *Globus* for October. Some of the ruins he visited have been previously unknown, and present architectural details of a higher order than any yet described.

Finally, though by no means of least importance, is an essay by Prof. W. H. Holmes, of the Columbian Museum, Chicago. It is the result of personal studies of various ruined cities last winter, and I may speak of it from a sight of the proofs. The author portrays with consummate skill the development of Mayan architecture, and solves many problems with reference to it which have hitherto remained obscure.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

CURRENT NOTES ON PHYSIOGRAPHY (XX).
THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

THE manner in which the distribution of plants and animals should be treated in the study of physical geography is a vexed question. The preference of the writer would be to leave the actual distribution of species to botany and zoölogy, and to introduce in geographical study only such examples of distribution as shall illuminate the control exercised over plant and animal life by the forms of land and water and by the physical conditions of climate; or such other examples as shall illustrate the interdependence of plants, animals and man, in the savage state of local supply or in the civilized state of extended exchange. Classifications of plants and animals, such as appear in certain text-books on physical geography, are quite out of place; even faunal and flora areas are not, as such, proper geographical subjects, but belong in zoölogy

and botany. In a word, when a plant or animal, or the area of its occurrence, is the object of study, the discipline is biological; when the forms of land or water, or the conditions of climate which control the growth or distribution of a plant or animal is the object of study, the discipline is geographical. The great variety and number of plants and animals encouraged to grow in the luxurious belt of the equatorial rains, or the sparsity of individuals and the specialized forms and colors of plants and animals that struggle to survive in the trade wind deserts, are examples of geographical themes; the particular characteristics of these various plants and animals, and their systematic relationship to the inhabitants of other regions, are examples of biological themes.

PLANTS OF THE ALPINE REGION.

THE peculiar forms assumed by plants of the Alpine region, offering excellent material for truly geographical study as defined in the preceding note, are described entertainingly by G. Bonnier (*Les plantes de la région alpine, et leurs rapports avec le climat. Ann. de géogr., Paris, iv. 1895, 393-413*). The plants are dwarfed, the stalks are low, the leaves are close to the ground in rosettes or tufts, the roots are large in proportion to the stalks and leaves; new individuals are often propagated from runners, so that the ripening of seeds need not be depended on. Growth begins before the snow of winter entirely disappears, and during the short summer advance is made rapidly to maturity; different phases of growth being abbreviated and their succession accelerated. While accounts of these peculiar features are used to intensify the appreciation of the average temperature of the Alpine region, of the long-continued presence of its snow cover and of the brevity of its open summer, they properly belong under geography; but when they are followed

by experiments on plants of the same species grown at high and low levels, and on minute observations of modifications of structure at high levels, the subject assumes a decidedly botanical flavor. Botanists as well as geographers will therefore find interesting matter in Bonnier's account of his gardens in the Alps and the Pyrenees, where for some years past he has cultivated plants taken from lower lands. The figures illustrating the difference between plants grown from two parts of a single rootstock, one in the Alps, the other in the lowlands, are particularly instructive from the remarkable modifications of the normal form produced by the Alpine habitat.

W. M. DAVIS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

WE are extremely glad to state that the report of the death of Dr. George M. Dawson, quoted in the last issue of this journal from the *London Standard*, was false. It was due to confusing the cable dispatch announcing the death of Dr. George Lawson. *Nature* states, in its issue of November 21st, "after a part of last week's issue of *Nature* had been printed off, containing a note announcing the death of Dr. George Dawson, we were rejoiced to be able to stop the press and cancel it, as a cablegram contradicted the rumor." We also should have been able to contradict the accounts contained in the English papers, had we not been compelled to go to press one day earlier than usual owing to the Thanksgiving holiday.

THE administrative council of the Pasteur Institute, at a recent meeting, presided over by M. Bertrand, permanent secretary of the Académie des Sciences, decided to appoint a subscription committee, with a view to the erection of an international monument to perpetuate the memory of Louis Pasteur.

THE first meeting of the General Committee of the Huxley Memorial was called for Wednesday, November 27th, in the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord President of the

Council, in the chair. Resolutions with respect to the form of the memorial were to be submitted to the meeting.

A MEETING of the Council of the Royal Society on December 12th will be devoted to the discussion of the question of Antarctic research. The discussion will be opened by Dr. John Murray, who will be followed by other specialists, each dealing with his own particular branch of science. It is expected that the Council will endorse the report of the Society's Antarctic Committee, urging the necessity for the resumption of Antarctic exploration by means of an adequately equipped Government expedition. It is stated that a well equipped German expedition to the Antarctic continent is now being prepared.

SIR JOSEPH LISTER has been nominated by the retiring president and council for election as president of the Royal Society. The election will take place at the anniversary meeting on November 30th. Prof. Michael Foster has been nominated for reelection as one of the secretaries.

CALVERT VAUX, the landscape architect, was drowned on November 20th. He was born in London about 71 years ago and came to America at the age of twenty-four to become the partner of A. J. Downing. He planned many of the most important parks in America, and New York City is especially indebted to him for the design of Central Park and for his long and able service in the Department of Parks.

THE health committee of the Glasgow Town Council has decided to establish and equip a complete bacteriological department in the sanitary buildings now in course of erection. The laboratory is to be in charge of an expert in bacteriology.

A. M. VILLON died on November 4th, of typhoid fever, at the age of twenty-eight. He was the author of 'Dictionnaire de chimie industrielle' (in course of publication at the time of his death) and other works and editor of 'La revue de chimie industrielle.'

M. DE BERNADIÈRES reported to the Paris Academy of Sciences on November 11th that with the coöperation of the ministers of the marine seven expeditions had been sent out with a view